LOUISIANA Conservationist

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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Conservation Pledge

**I give my
pledge as an American
to save and faithfully to
defend from waste the
natural resources of
my country—its soil
and minerals, its
forests, waters
and wildlife**

Published Bi-Monthly in the interest of conservation of Louisiana's natural resources by the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, Peabody Hall, Capitol Station, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804.

A handful of goslings. These young Canada geese were hatched on Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge where efforts are being made to eventually build up resident flocks of princely Canada geese which once were numerous in Louisiana. After banding, they will be allowed to mature and become free fliers. It is hoped that efforts being made at the refuge will eventually attract more Canada geese to their traditional wintering grounds. At the present time, only an estimated 7,000 Canada geese winter in Louisiana. In former years, their numbers went into the tens of thousands.

LOUISIANA
Conservationist
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Upon Written Request*

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Conservationist EDITORIAL

MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN on why guns should be removed from use but little on why we should retain them.

Let's keep our guns because they are as American as cherry pie, ice cream, hot dogs, hamburgers, cowboys and Indians. In the settlement of this country, guns were necessary to secure food for the family and to protect them against raids by Indians and renegade whites. At that time, the gun played an even more important part in our history than the plow. The gun conquered the North American wilderness and made our present high standard of living possible.

Admittedly we don't need guns now to secure food nor for protection against Indians. But the right to ownership of guns is as much a part of our American heritage as is the right to wave the flag or is the right to freedom of religion; rights that are all guaranteed in the Constitution. Too many Americans and especially Louisianians believe this to give guns up without a tough fight.

Let's keep our guns because they do or should play an important part in the development of every boy. No boy should be deprived the pleasure of ownership and use of a cap gun, a water pistol, a pellet gun, a 22 rifle, a 410 shotgun and as he matures, a 12 gauge shotgun and a 30-06 rifle. Guns teach an appreciation for a precise instrument, a responsibility for their care and a respect for their power. Guns transform a boy into a man. Young hunters in the woods or marsh are far better for this country than young hoodlums in the street.

Let's keep our guns because they are the most important item of recreational equipment owned by at least 300,000 Louisiana sportsmen and their value is conservatively estimated at 90 million dollars. In addition their use in hunting contributes annually another 90 million dollars to the economy of the state. The wholesome sport of hunting provides millions of hours of recreation to Louisiana sportsmen and adds immeasurably to their well being and welfare.

Let's keep our guns because a hunter who has free use of his gun is willing to spend large sums of money to preserve and improve wildlife habitat. The waterfowler in Louisiana leases and manages large tracts of marshland that would otherwise be managed for other purposes some of which would be very detrimental to many forms of wildlife. He contributes to Ducks Unlimited to preserve the breeding grounds in Canada, he buys a Migratory Bird Stamp to purchase and improve federal waterfowl areas in the United States. The deer hunter who leases forest land preserves the habitat for squirrels, swamp rabbits, turkeys and woodcock as well as many nongame birds and animals. Because he can use his gun, the hunter saves habitat for many species of wildlife thereby saving some of them from extinction.

Let's keep our guns because guns provide a tremendous amount of pleasure for the skeet, trap, and target shooter, to the antique collector and to the man who likes to putter with the muzzle loader. These enthusiasts all contribute substantially to our economy. Such types of shooting are rapidly increasing in popularity throughout the United States.

LESLIE L. GLASGOW
Director

Let's keep our guns because the 10 percent federal excise tax the purchaser pays on arms and ammunition is dedicated to wildlife restoration purposes. Since initiation of this tax in 1937, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has received approximately 6 million dollars for game work. These funds must be matched with one-fourth state funds. The money has been used for game research and development. Your deer restocking and management program was financed from these funds, the turkey program is being carried out with them and the Wildlife Management Areas are operated on this money. Without these funds, nearly all game work of the Commission would be eliminated.

Let's keep our guns because browsing animals such as deer must be kept in balance with their habitat. When their population exceeds the carrying capacity of the range, they destroy it, causing great damage to forest reproduction and to adjacent farm crops. When populations become too high, parasites, disease and starvation wreak havoc with all big game browsing animals. Hunting of these animals with guns is the only practical control practice known.

Let's keep our guns because they are essential for the control of diseases in wild animals such as rabies in foxes, cats, dogs, bats or skunks. The gun is the surest and quickest means of eliminating carriers of this dreaded disease. If hoof and mouth disease ever broke out in our livestock or deer herds, the remedy that would be recommended by veterinarians is the quickest possible slaughter of all ungulates in the infected area. The elimination of this disease as well as others could be accomplished only with the gun.

Let's keep our guns to protect our homes and families. The gun is the greatest deterrent known to home robberies and assaults. Let's quit making the gun the scapegoat for crime. Guns do not commit crimes; people do. The blame should be placed on the criminal and action taken against him, not the gun. Registration of firearms will not prevent crime. Neither will mail order ban on rifles and shotguns. The honest citizen and the hunter will be penalized, not the criminal.

Every hunter and every citizen interested in protecting his home should make their views known to their Congressman. Now! Urge the defeat of bills calling for registration, licensing or prohibition of purchase of sporting rifles and shotguns through the mails. Remember, Registration is the first step to confiscation. ✠

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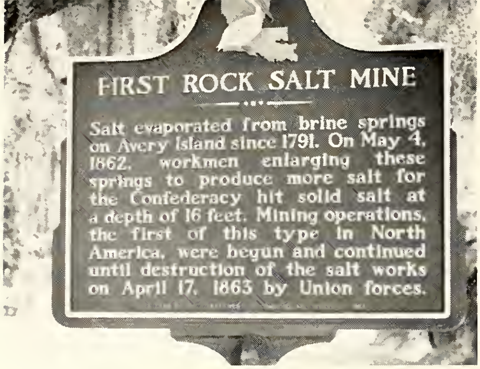

FIRST ROCK SALT MINE
Salt evaporated from brine springs on Avery Island since 1791. On May 4, 1862, workmen enlarging these springs to produce more salt for the Confederacy hit solid salt at a depth of 16 feet. Mining operations, the first of this type in North America, were begun and continued until destruction of the salt works on April 17, 1863 by Union forces.

An historical marker at Avery Island.

A favorite fishing spot on Avery Island.

This is . . .

AVERY ISLAND

Steve Harmon

NOTCHED DEEPLY in the arch of the Louisiana boot, due westward from New Orleans, there is an "island". Yet, it isn't an island. It is a huge mountain of solid salt which rises above the Louisiana marsh. Under the island there is a salt mine. Geologists say the mine is almost inexhaustible. It has been a source of pure salt for more than 200 years. Here prostrate lies Avery Island.

Born of revolutionary times, when high tariffs on salt were imposed, the Avery surface excavations yielded large quantities of salt so great in demand at the time. The resource produced profits and from these profits emerged the colorful jungle gardens and bird city. Here too, is pepperland.

Ramis Bonin returning from patroling the swamp at Avery Island.

If you can imagine a mountain as huge as Mt. Everest with a handful of the Appalachian peaks added, you will have an adequate idea of the Avery Island salt deposit.

Above and alongside this gigantic salt dome is a layer of fertile top soil—high, firm ground, so prolific it sexes itself. Here, some of the hottest peppers grown in the world, processed, find their way into the gourmet centers of earthland.

But this walk and talk is about bird city and the jungle gardens—end products of salt and pepper.

Mirrowed, like a vision from heaven, erectly stand the giant, bearded live-oak trees alongside the Wasi orange, flutter hundreds of thousands of egrets and herons that make up BIRD CITY. Sandwiched in between the oaks, Chinese wisteria loom at you as trees; Japanese wisteria, planted there as a gesture of the Imperior, crawl the trunk in an atmosphere of togetherness.

Along the miles and miles of snake-like winding roads and paths you will find pink-fleshed, hybrid grape-fruits from Cochin; you will find a quaint evergreen that is one of the remaining survivors of the coal age. (It is documented that a plant explorer found it in a remote village of the Tibetan valley and forwarded it to Louisiana.) You will find finger bananas lotus and paryrus

A scene at Bird City showing Snowy Egrets nesting. It is here at Avery Island that the late E. A. McIlhenny established his rookery which is credited with having played a major role in saving these birds from extinction by the plume hunters.

from the Upper Nile and soap trees from India. Walk along the avenue of crepe myrtles, camellias and stately magnolias that blend in with the moss-covered live oaks and vision a setting of the Garden of Eden.

As you walk along in the Garden of Avery you get the true meaning of conservation—guarding or protecting; a keeping in a safe or entire state, including maintenance and supervision.

A miracle happens here in bird city. The adults of bird city never feed in bird city lake. That food is kept over for next year's crop of young egrets and herons who are not yet strong enough for their journey to South America. Papa and mama fly out to the lush Louisiana coastland for their food and return by nightfall—hundreds of thousands of them—to their homes, preening and ruffling the glamorous nuptial aigrettes that no plume hunter would touch today.

Nutria, the large rodent imported from Argentina, found its initial home at Avery Island in 1937. The fur from this animal ranks with mink in quality and is sought as "Christmas Gift" by miladies throughout the world. A colony of these furbearers still make their home on the island.

As you walk along, you will find a Chinese Garden comprising Buddha, surrounded by his seven hills. This is considered the best Buddha ever imported to America. The inscrutable Gautama sits cross-legged somewhat as he did more than 800 years ago in the Shonfa Temple near Peiping, where he had been placed by Emperor HuiTsung during the Tsung Dynasty between the years 960 and 1126 A. D. It is said that a Chinese general looted the temple and sent the idol to the United States where it was sold to an American museum.

Famous for its salt and pepper, for its flora and fauna harmoniously blended with a profusion of wildlife, the Jungle Gardens of Avery Island is a living monument to its founder, Edward Avery McIlhenny, who combed the world for more than half a century in search of trees and plants, of animals and birds that today forms such a fabulous assortment it beggers the imagination. ✠

An aerial view of Avery Island looking towards the west.

Home Grown!

CAJUN CANADAS

Ted Joanen
and
Howard Dupuie

THE CANADA GOOSE, once a common winter resident to the coastal marshes of Louisiana has declined over the years to just a few thousand birds. The reduction in Louisiana's wintering population has been brought about by the establishment of the goose management units in Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin. These refuges not only provided protection, but also farming programs were initiated to entice and hold these geese in the areas.

Wildlife workers in Missouri report that Canada geese were a rare sight in the Swan Lake Refuge area prior to the establishment of this sanctuary. In 1939-40, small flocks passed over the refuge during the fall migration with some staying over-night to feed in the adjoining fields. The Swan Lake flock actually began its build up in 1941 when 800 geese used the area. Populations continued to increase until 1955 when this peak population numbered 133,000 birds.

As the population increased on these northern refuges and required more food so did the farming practices. This brought about a steady decline in the number of Canada geese coming south to Louisiana. It is believed that if this trend continues the southern migration of Canada geese may very well terminate in Missouri.

In an effort to rebuild this population in Louisiana, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission along with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service have initiated several programs aimed at reestablishing Canada geese to a huntable population in the state. There have been several approaches to this problem. First, the season has been closed for several years on shooting Canada geese in the state. It was thought that by eliminating gunning pressure this would allow the reminate migrant population a chance to build back up. Second, the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service sponsored a "stepping stone" program from the Missouri Refuge down to the terminal migration point in the coastal marshes of Louisiana. This involved trucking in immatured Canada geese and placing them at intermediate points along the traditional migratory route south of the refuge in Missouri.

An angry Canada goose causes a biologist to duck as it makes repeated assaults on the biologist who is in the act of banding young geese that have been hatched on the refuge.

This photograph shows a nesting Canada goose on the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge. During the nesting season of 1968, 95 nests were located on the 100-acre pasture.

The theory behind this program was that the young birds without prior migratory experience would accept and return to these new release sites since no definite migratory patterns had been formulated. This program has been successful, but only on a very limited scale.

Trapping operations on the Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge indicated the majority of these transplanted birds wintered on the refuge the following year rather than come farther south.

Third, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission chose to acquire adult birds and investigate the possibility of establishing a non-migratory nesting colony of Canada geese in Louisiana. This program began in 1960 on Rockefeller Refuge when 26 wild Canada geese were obtained from the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin.

Since that time several hundred birds have been acquired from private propagators in Minnesota and Regina, Saskatchewan. All of the adult birds obtained were permanently pinioned and released in a 100-acre pasture near the refuge headquarters.

In the spring of 1961, one pair nested and from this nesting attempt, three young were produced. As these birds became acclimated to the climate and temperatures of the coastal marshes and

The stately Canada goose once wintered in Louisiana in great numbers and was considered the prince among geese in the state by waterfowlers.

with additional birds being added each year the number of nesting pairs increased. During the nesting season of 1968, 95 nests were located in the 100-acre pasture. The young birds raised from the previous years were banded and permitted to fly.

These birds are free-flyers moving off the refuge for several miles each day to feeding and resting areas on the Grand Lake and White Lake marshes. Birds return to the refuge in late evening, feed and roost. With the adult birds held flightless, young free flyers showed no tendency to migrate and remained in Louisiana year round.

During the nesting season of 1965, several pairs of free-flyers established territories and nested on the refuge for the first time. Since those first nesting attempts in 1965, these birds have returned to the refuge and each year nested and brought off their young. The number of free-flying nesting pairs is increasing each year.

This year several pairs were located nesting off the refuge on the Grand Chenier ridge. In order to reduce the mortality in the young, as each nest hatch the young birds are picked up and brought to the holding pens at the refuge headquarters.

In an attempt to increase the egg production from the captive flock, the first clutch of eggs from all nests found are removed and placed in an incubator. Birds, after a short period of time, will lay a second clutch of eggs. This second clutch is allowed to remain and hatch under the parent bird. Using this method, the production from a captive flock can be almost doubled. This renesting occurs in nature in the event the first nest if lost to predators or unusual climatic conditions.

Each year efforts are made to acquire birds with the hopes that they will acclimate themselves to the humid temperatures and eventually nest in the Louisiana marshes. This year 500 young Canada geese, three to five days old, were purchased from Regina, Saskatchewan and flown by commercial airlines to Louisiana.

Birds will be added to the flock already established here at Rockefeller Refuge and it is hoped that these birds without prior migratory experience will establish themselves as nesters here in the coastal marshes of the state.

Once a suitable number of nesting pairs has become established on Rockefeller, a portion of these Louisiana Canadas will be moved on to other refuges in the state and this process repeated until the entire potential of this program has been reached. The results of this program have proven it to be the most successful method used as yet to reestablish Canada geese in Louisiana.

These home grown Canadas will serve as a nucleus for the rebuilding program along the coastal marshes of Louisiana. It will be from these birds that the Louisiana hunter may one day again hunt the elusive Canada goose. However, rather than the migratory variety a true resident, the Cajun Canada. ✠

At Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in southwest Louisiana efforts are being made to rebuild Louisiana's wintering flocks of Canada geese. Migrants today are seldom more than 7,000. Initial efforts consisted of importing Canada geese from northern states and the geese were pinioned. A fenced 100-acre pasture was established for the experiment. This photograph shows the area at the refuge being used in the Canada goose program. In the background are refuge buildings.

A VOTE

For

YAUPON

L. K. Halls

and

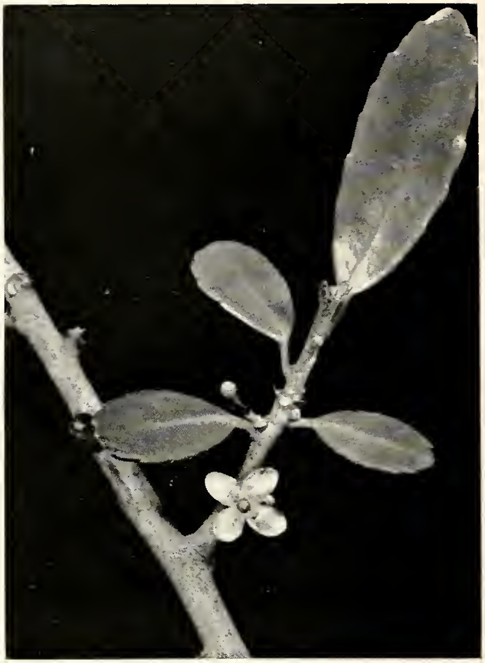
S. W. Oefinger, Jr.*

IF SOUTHERN WILDLIFE could vote they'd surely elect yaupon as one of their favorite food plants. Yaupon, pronounced YO'pawn by laymen or *Ilex vomitoria* by botanists, provides fruit for deer, turkey, quail, squirrel, raccoon, and many songbirds. For deer, yaupon leaves are a reliable source of green forage in late winter, and of special significance because they contain sufficient protein for deer maintenance. Game winters well with ample yaupon.

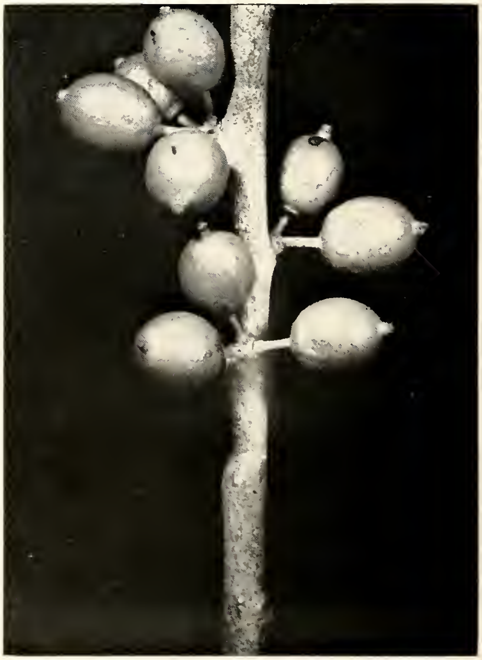
When heavily browsed, yaupon tends to hedge, and the short stiff branches protect enough leaves inside the crown to keep the plant alive. Thus, the species survives on overstocked range, although the plants may develop grotesque shapes.

Yaupon is also useful as an ornamental. With pruning, it forms an attractive hedge for the yard or a roadside shrub for highway beautification. Its lustrous evergreen leaves are pleasant to see in winter. The shiny red berries are especially pretty, and often are used with Christmas greenery. Thus, the plant is sometimes called Christmas-berry.

Although yaupon is commonly found as far north and east as Virginia, it is most abundant in the Coastal Plain forests of Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas. It begins growth in mid-March, when many new shoots form and elongate rapidly. During dry weather twig growth practically ceases, but the plants put on a new flush when soil moisture again becomes favorable. With



Yaupon leaves are evergreen and lustrous, from ½ to 2 inches long. Small white flowers appear in April.



Fruit is a bright red berry, ¼ inch in diameter, that ripens in October.

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*The authors are on the staff of the Wildlife Habitat and Silviculture Laboratory, which is maintained at Nacogdoches, Texas, by the Southern Forest Experiment Station in cooperation with Stephen F. Austin State College.

enough rain, plants continue growing to mid-October.

The small white flowers appear during April and May and are arranged in clusters at leaf bases on branches of the previous year. Usually, male flowers are borne on one plant and females on another. Although this makes selection of female plants necessary for berry-producing ornamentals, it is equally important to have a male plant close by for pollination.

The fruits are about 1/4-inch in diameter and usually contain 4 nutlets. They mature in October and November and persist into winter. Some may remain until the following spring on the inner branches where birds cannot get them.

Yaupon grows well beneath trees but best in the open. Up to 150 pounds per acre of yaupon browse (green weight) have been grown beneath pine stands in east Texas, but plants in the open have produced 5 to 57 times more than plants of the same age beneath trees. Likewise, fruit yields of 200 pounds (green weight) per acre in the open have greatly exceeded yields under trees.

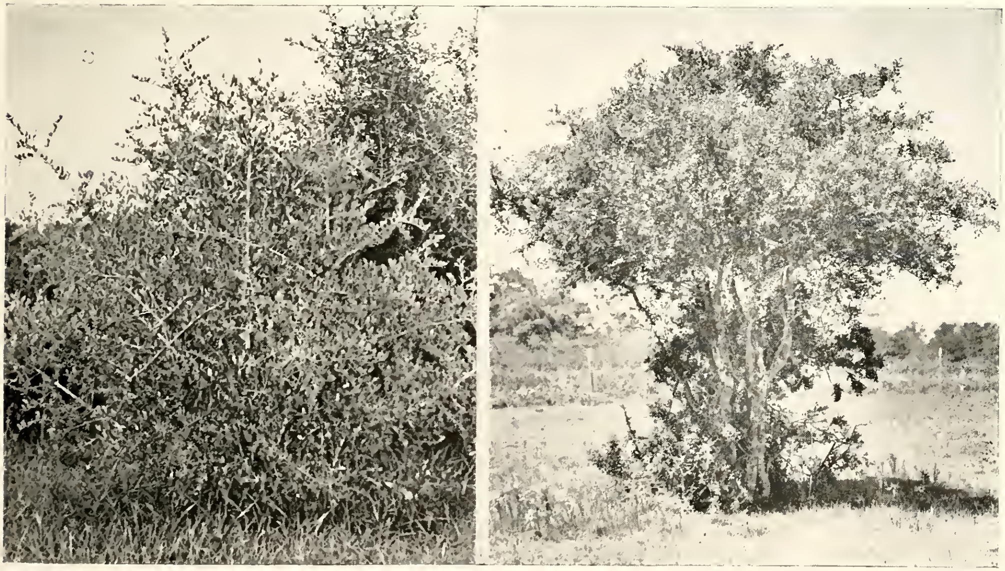
Yaupon competes with forage grasses for moisture and is regarded as a weed species by cattle growers in central Texas. It offers little hindrance to tree growth, and is not considered a pest in forest management.

Summer burns or a series of hot winter fires will kill yaupon. However, infrequent winter burns of moderate intensity may serve a useful purpose in keeping new growth near the ground and available to deer. Fruit yields will be at a minimum in the year following a burn.

Though yaupon may be difficult to grow from seed, good results were obtained with a schedule developed at the Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest, near Nacogdoches, Texas. Mature seeds were collected in the fall, stored over winter in moist sand at approximately 40° F., sowed in nursery beds the following March, and then kept covered for a year with a thin layer of soil and 2 to 3 inches of pine straw. In the spring of the second year the straw was removed and seeds germinated. Seedlings remained in the well-watered nursery until the following February, when they were transplanted by dibble into an old field that had been disked the previous month. Even though the annual rainfall was only 50 percent of normal, 78 percent of the seedlings were alive at the end of the first year.

Propagation by cuttings is inconsistent. In a three-year study under greenhouse conditions at the Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest, an average of 14 percent of stems rooted when placed in a 3:1 sand-peat mixture and watered by an intermittent spray for 13 weeks. The highest rooting percentage for any one collection was 53 percent from stems taken in May.

With the rising demand for game as well as timber from southern forests, it will become increasingly important to grow useful food plants within timber stands or wildlife openings. Yaupon is certain to be one of the selected species.*



Left: Young yaupon plant grown in the open without heavy browsing. Right: Overbrowsing by cattle has deformed this older plant so that most of its foliage is beyond the reach of deer.

RID TRASH FISH FROM CATFISH PONDS

James W. Avault, Jr.*

TRASH FISH in channel catfish ponds can be a major problem in fish farming. Green sunfish are often the culprits. Having them in a catfish pond is like having bitterweed in your pasture. These fish compete with catfish for food, space, oxygen, and they may introduce parasites. Green sunfish compete with catfish for feed; this can be costly. They must be separated from catfish at draining; this requires extra labor and expense.

A new fish toxicant is on the market which shows real promise for eliminating trash fish without killing catfish. It's called antimycin and goes under the trade name fintrol. The toxicant consists of 1 per cent antimycin, which is coated on sand with carbowax. Fintrol has been registered for use as a fish toxicant by the Food and Drug Administration and by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

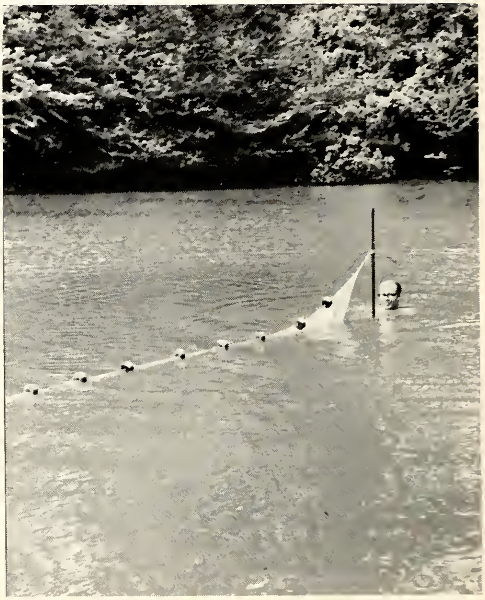
Antimycin was discovered by scientists at the University of Wisconsin almost 10 years ago. It's a fungus-like bacteria, and was called antimycin because it was very toxic to fungus. Later it was found that antimycin was extremely toxic to certain species of fish in concentrations as low as one part per billion. Green sunfish, bluegill, and sunfishes in general were readily killed at 1 ppb. Other species killed included shiners, minnows, suckers, carp, buffalo, and shad. Catfish, bowfin, and gar were more resistant. It took about 20 times as much antimycin to kill channel catfish as it did to kill green sunfish. This is a wide margin of safety.

Thus far, antimycin has been tested as a fish toxicant in over half a dozen states and Canada by fishery workers. The results look good. Trash fish were eliminated whereas catfish were not killed. Antimycin was also found safe for use around farm animals.

Since channel catfish farming is growing in Louisiana, use of antimycin may prove a real boon to fish farmers. For this reason it was tested by the School of Forestry and Wildlife Management at L.S.U., to determine if its use could be recommended.

Five ponds were chosen for this experiment. Two ponds contained channel catfish plus undesirable fish. Three ponds contained unbalanced fish populations because of trash fish. These three were poisoned out, and later will be stocked with catfish. In all, the following species were represented in ponds: green sunfish, bluegill, redear sunfish, largemouth bass, golden shiner, mosquitofish, and channel catfish.

The five ponds were treated with 3, 4 or 5 ppb antimycin. The method of application was simple. A small hole was punched in a can containing the desired amount of antimycin. The toxicant was then allowed to sift into the water as the boat moved along. Only 15 minutes were needed to treat a pond, and antimycin sinks through the water evenly. There's no need for pumps or sprayers. In two of the five ponds, antimycin



All ponds were seined before treatment with antimycin to determine species of fish present. All ponds were seined again after treatment to determine survival.

The toxicant was allowed to sift out of the can. Only 15 minutes were needed to treat this 1.3 acre pond.

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*School of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Louisiana State University.

was broadcasted by hand. The results were just as effective but it took several hours before the first fish became distressed. Antimycin kills fish by retarding respiration of body cells. The action is irreversible. Once affected, the fish can not recover.

All in all the results were gratifying. Sick fish surfaced only minutes after the ponds were treated. Undesirable fish were eliminated but channel catfish were not harmed. In fact they were readily caught by hook and line three days after treatment and again one month later. Mosquitofish were killed in three ponds but were eliminated in none. Crawfish were not killed and showed no ill effects from the treatment. Phytoplankton blooms were not affected nor did oxygen depletion occur. However, where large numbers of trash fish are killed the fish farmer should keep close tabs on the dissolved oxygen. Oxygen is necessary for the decomposition of dead fish. Two ponds were muddy before treatment but cleared after they were treated. Apparently the decaying fish resulted in flocculation of clay particles. The water remained toxic for about 10 days. Prior to this golden shiners were killed when put in a sample of water from treated ponds. The water quality and amount of antimycin used determines how long the water remains toxic. Generally, degradation of antimycin occurs in two to seven day in moderately hard, warm waters, whereas in cool, soft waters up to two weeks are required. Moreover, degradation of antimycin is slower as the pH decreases.

Antimycin looks good. But what does it cost? The retail cost is presently $48.00 per 8.25 pound can. The material in the can is enough to treat 6 acre feet of water with 5 ppb of antimycin. Furthermore, if 3 ppb of antimycin is used, it would cost about $4.50 per acre foot. Assume we have a one acre pond that has an average depth of four feet. This gives four acre-feet of water. To treat the pond with 3 ppb antimycin, it would cost $18.00.

In summary, use of antimycin as a fish toxicant shows promise, particularly for removing trash fish from catfish ponds. It is also useful for cleaning out a pond before channel catfish are stocked. Antimycin is easy to apply, safe to use, works in cool and warm water, and is effective at very low concentrations. The toxicant degrades in a matter of a few days depending on water quality. But as with any new product some may hesitate to try it. At this point it seems that use of antimycin on a trial basis is recommended. It is hoped that antimycin will be a real aid to fish farmers in the future.

Anyone interested in obtaining Fintrol may write the author at LSU in Baton Rouge. ✠

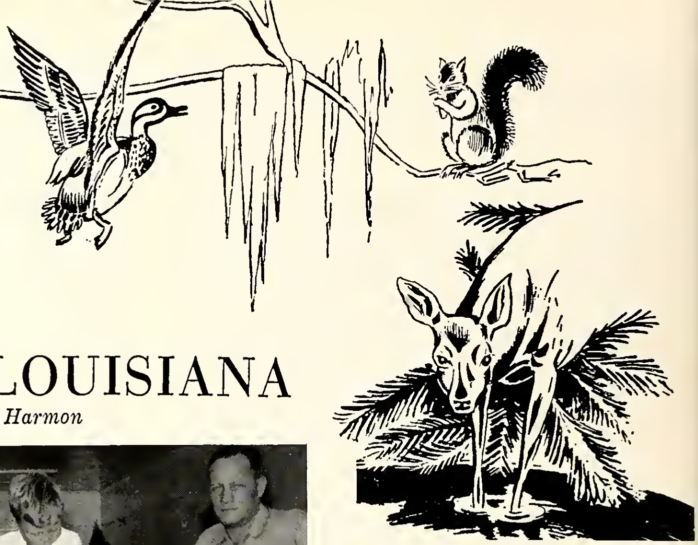
Dead fish surfaced only minutes after treatment.

Fish are sorted and recorded prior to treatment.

Gil Radonski, fishery biologist, weighs out Fintrol for use in a pond.

Letters... Questions... Answers... about WILDLIFE *in* LOUISIANA

conducted by Steve Harmon



This is a picture taken after a big catch at Cedar Lake in Pineville on June 21. There are approximately 100 white perch and bass. Pictured from left to right are: Dud Adams and grandson, Ray Jr. Adams of Ball, and Floyd Adams and his dad, Buddy Adams from Baton Rouge.

Dear Editor: Golden Meadow

Golden Meadow Junior High School faculty and student body wish to express sincere appreciation to the Sears Roebuck foundation for its role in making it possible for us to receive the award as Youth Conservationist of the Year.

We shall endeavor to continue and improve our efforts in this area of our school's curricula.

LYTTON DANTIN
and STEVE STALL

Church Point

Dear Editor:

I'm enclosing a picture of the quail I killed and also the pointer I used to hunt with. The hunting was done in Acadia Parish.

LLOYD J. COURVILLE

Metairie

Dear Editor:

Bobby McCullough, a fifteen year old high school student, is one of those young hunting enthusiasts who is totally infatuated with hunting and wildlife in general.

On the morning of April 18 Bobby and another young local hunting buff by the name of Joeseph Estrada, also age 15, drove over to the Slidell area of St. Tammany parish and began their hunt. According to these young fellars, not only did Bob bag his bird but they had spotted a second gobbler and Joe almost got his. The bird weighed out at 16½ pounds and Bobby proudly displays the beard and relates the story to anyone he can corner. This was the first turkey hunt for these boys.

IRVIN H. DARES

Joe and Bob

Lake Charles

Dear Editor:

I thought you would like to have an example of the successful fishing trip my two cousins, brother and myself had on the Calcasieu River recently. From left to right: John Deshotel, Allen Langley, Jerry Deshotel, and myself kneeling. This 30 lb. spotted catfish is the largest of several catfish taken with small catfish as bait.

ROBERT LANGLEY

* * *

Leesville

Dear Editor:

While squirrel hunting on the Fort Polk Game Management Area I killed this bobcat with a load of number 6's from my 12 gauge double barrel. The fairly large cat came trotting by me as I was encountering a cat squirrel in a hickory tree. She stood 17½ inches tall at the shoulder and 34¼ inches from head to tail.

RONALD JEANE

* * *

Shreveport,

Dear Editor:

On the night of May 18th while walking on the beach of Breton Island, I came upon a sickening sight. Someone had apparently shot and wounded a porpoise weighing approximately 170 pounds. The mammal had swam into the shallow water and let the tide leave him stranded on the beach in a small pool of bloody water.

A friend of mine, who also has a compassion for living things, and I decided to place the porpoise back into the Gulf.

After a half hour of hard work, and a sound whack on my backside which sent me hurtling into the Gulf breaking numerous blood vessels in my leg, we finally succeeded. On wading back to the beach we found the porpoise back in shallow water. We repeated our task three or four times thinking that this was the right thing to do. However we later decided that he wanted to die in the shallows rather than be eaten by the sharks.

If people fishing the Louisiana waters aren't educated enough, this same incident may occur time and time again.

I can remember seeing the porpoises swimming during my first trip to the Gulf. I was almost certain that they were sharks.

Please print this letter in the **Louisiana Conservationist** and also mention the penalty for shooting a fine species.

REGGIE VAUGHN

* * *

Lafayette

Dear Editor:

Enclosed is a picture of a 6½-lb. bass caught by my father, Hurmond R. Lee. This bass was caught on a black and red H & H, and was one of thirty. They were feeding on crayfish. He has waited 30 years of fishing and finally got his big one—he has all he wanted.

JAMES LEE

* * *

On May 16, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission purchased 4,009 acres of land in Concordia Parish to be used as a wildlife management area. The land is adjacent to the Red River Wildlife Management Area, consisting of 12,600 acres purchased in December 1966. Shown with Governor John J. McKeithen at the act of sale are, from left: John E. Kyle, Jr., commission member; W. C. Falkenheiner, attorney for the seller; Mrs. Una Cross Maxwell, seller; Jerry G. Jones, commission chairman; H. B. Fairchild, Clarence A. Guidry, Jimmy Thompson, commission members; Leslie L. Glasgow, commission director, and Hobson Norris, commission member.

Commission's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Program

Dewey W. Wills
Coordinator

During the 1950's, the growing demand for the outdoors and the sharpening competition for recreation resources became matters of increased concern. In 1958 Congress recognized a need for a nationwide study of these problems and established the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC). Congress directed ORRRC to survey the outdoor recreation needs of the American people over the next forty years and to recommend action to meet these needs.

ORRRC took inventory of the nation's supply of outdoor recreation areas . . . including parks, forests, and fishing and hunting areas. It questioned 16,000 persons to learn what Americans do for recreation and what they are likely to do in the future.

In 1964, in response to a major ORRRC recommendation, Congress authorized a twenty-five year program of federal grants-in-aid for state and local outdoor recreation planning, land acquisition and development projects.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Program was established under Public Law 88-578 (75 Stat. 897) in 1964. On January 1, 1965, this program became effective and is administered by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C.

The Land and Conservation Fund derives revenue from (1) admissions and user fees at federal recreation areas which meet certain qualifications; (2) net proceeds from the sale of surplus federal real property; and (3) existing federal tax on motorboat fuels. Normally, sixty percent of the fund is available to the states, on a 50-50 matching basis, to develop plans to meet outdoor recreation needs and to acquire and develop the necessary land and water areas.

A comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan prepared by the state is a prerequisite to receiving grants for acquisitions or development. States may transfer to their political subdivisions and to other non-federal public agencies for approved projects. To be eligible for assistance, proposed projects must be in accord with the state plan and meet all other requirements of the Act.

The sixty percent of the Land and Water Conservation Fund normally available to the states is apportioned as follows: (1) Two-fifths, divided equally among the states, and (2) Three-fifths apportioned among the states according to need. The Secretary of the Interior shall determine needs under terms set in the Act.

The apportionment to the State of Louisiana from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act averages approximately one and one-quarter million dollars annually.

Also, to be eligible to receive these funds each state must have a state agency appointed by the Governor that has the authority to represent and act for the state in administering funds paid under the Act for approved projects.

On July 1, 1965, by authority of Act 128 of the Louisiana Legislature, the State Parks and Recreation Commission was given the responsibility of administering the apportionment to Louisiana of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

As stated previously, a prerequisite to eligibility to receive matching grants for acquisition and development projects was a comprehensive statewide outdoor recreational plan. In accord with criteria by the federal government, the plan took into account all outdoor recreation resources and programs within the state.

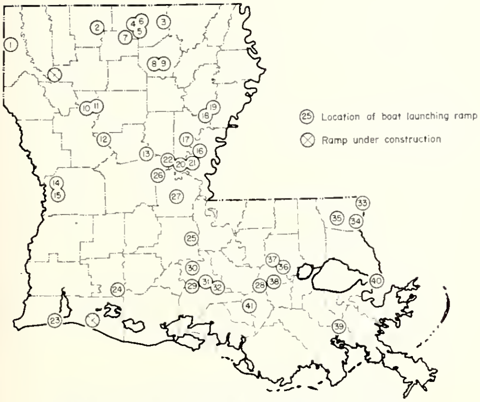
The plan expressed the present supply of outdoor recreational enterprises in seventeen different activities, present and future demand, present and future need, and a realistic action program for meeting these needs. The Louisiana comprehensive outdoor recreation plan was accepted and approved by the Department of Interior on October 10, 1965.

A Louisiana Recreational Advisory Council was set up of the same Act (Act 128) that appointed the State Parks and Recreation Bureau the official agency for handling funds available under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. This council is composed of the directors of ten state agencies whose functions involve some facets of recreation. The Act also provides for two members-at-large, one of which must be a recreational specialist and the other must be in the field of landscape architecture.

Among other responsibilities, the Louisiana Recreational Advisory Council is authorized and directed to supervise the preparation, maintenance and upgrading of a comprehensive long range statewide outdoor recreation plan in order to determine and meet the needs of the State of Louisiana for outdoor recreation.

In May, 1967, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission appointed a Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Coordinator to administer the Commission's recreational projects under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.

Following is a list of the BOR projects that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has either received or has applied for matching funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.


(25) Location of boat launching ramp
⊗ Ramp under construction

Projects and Federal Funds Received

1. Spring Bayou Wildlife Management Area (Acquisition)	$411,898.16
2. Bogalusa Boat Ramp (Acquisition)	785.10

Projects in Pipe Lines

1. Red River Wildlife Management Area (Acquisition)	400,400.00
2. Lake Bistineau Boat Ramp (Development)	10,350.00
3. Spring Bayou Additions (Acquisition)	1,475.00
4. Saline Wildlife Management Area Camping Area (Development)	11,310.00
5. Davis Lake Boat Ramp (Development)	10,100.00
6. Long Lake Boat Ramp (Development)	10,100.00

The BOR section, among other duties, has been given the responsibility of handling the boat ramp program. The growth of boating since World War II has grown by leaps and bounds. Providing access to the many miles of lakes, rivers and streams presents a real challenge to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. To date the Commission has constructed forty-one ramps, acted as funding agency for thirteen others built under the APW program and presently has two ramps under construction. The boat ramp program has been very successful and many additional ramps are programmed for the future.

Following is a list of ramps constructed and maintained by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission:

CADDO LAKE
Caddo Parish—2 miles south of Oil City, La. Hwy. 1 on Twelve Mile Bayou
LAKE CLAIBORNE
Claiborne Parish—11 miles southeast of Homer, La. Hwy. 146
OUACHITA RIVER
Union Parish—Ouachita City, Off Hwy. 143
D'ARBONNE LAKE
Union Parish—North side of lake at spillway Off Hwy. 2
D'ARBONNE LAKE
Union Parish—South side of lake at spillway, Off Hwy. 15
D'ARBONNE LAKE
Union Parish—Hog Pen Landing on Corney Arm Off Hwy. 2
D'ARBONNE LAKE
Lincoln Parish—North of Hwy. 151 at Lincoln Landing on D'Arbonne Arm
CHENIER LAKE
Ouachita Parish—South side of lake at Park Area I, Off Hwy. 34
CHENIER LAKE
Ouachita Parish—North side of lake at Park Area IV, Off I-20
CLEAR LAKE
Natchitoches Parish—4 miles northeast and 1 mile S. of Hwy. 9 from Campti
CLEAR LAKE
Natchitoches Parish—6 miles east and 1 mile north of Hwy. 480 from Campti
NANTACHIE LAKE
Grant Parish—4 miles south of Montgomery and 1 mile north of Hwy. 71 on La. Hwy. 1240
LITTLE RIVER
Grant Parish—10 miles southeast of Hwy. 8 from Fishville
LAKE VERNON
Vernon Parish—4 miles west and 3 miles north Off Hwy. 8 from Leesville
ANACOCO LAKE
Vernon Parish—8 miles west of Leesville on Hwy. 8 and 2 miles south on Hwy. 464 from Hwy. 8 and 464 intersection
COCODRIE LAKE
Concordia Parish—3 miles east of Lismore Hwy. 565
BLACK RIVER
Catahoula Parish—Jonesville, La.
BAYOU LOUIE
Catahoula Parish—Sicily Island
TENSAS RIVER
Franklin Parish—10 miles southeast of Wisner, La., Hwy. 562
SALINE BAYOU
Catahoula Parish—14 miles south of Hwy. 28 on Saline WMA
YOUNGBLOOD LANDING SALINE BAYOU
Catahoula Parish—Saline Bayou on Larto Lake Saline WMA
MUDDY BAYOU
LaSalle Parish—Muddy Bayou on Saline WMA
CALCASIEU SHIP CHANNEL
Cameron Parish—Adjacent to Cameron Ferry
DREDGED CANAL
Jefferson-Davis Parish—From Lake Arthur which comes into City Limits of town of Lake Arthur; 2 blocks west of main street in Lake Arthur
HALF MOON BAYOU
St. Landry Parish—3 miles west of Melville, Hwy. 10
BIG CREEK
Avoyelles Parish—15 miles north of Marksville Hwy. 115
OLD RIVER
Avoyelles Parish—2 miles north of Mansura Hwy. 1
MISSISSIPPI RIVER
Ascension Parish—Donaldsonville Hwy. 1
LAKE MARTIN
St. Martin Parish—4 miles north of Parks Hwy. 31
BUTTE LaROSE ATCHAFALAYA RIVER
St. Martin Parish—5 miles south of Henderson east of W. Atchafalaya guide levee
LAKE DAUTERIVE
St. Martin Parish—25 miles south of Henderson on west Atchafalaya guide levee
BAYOU BENOIT
St. Martin Parish—20 miles south of Henderson on west Atchafalaya guide levee
PEARL RIVER
Washington Parish—Approximately 6 miles east of Angie
PEARL RIVER
Washington Parish—Bogalusa, Hwy. 26
BOGUE CHITTO
Washington Parish—Franklinton, Hwy. 16
BAYOU CHENE BLANC
Livingston Parish—2 miles east of Head of Island Hwy. 22
AMITE RIVER
Livingston Parish—Port Vincent, Hwy. 42
BAYOU FRANCOIS
Ascension Parish—Gonzales on Hwy. 61
INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY
Jefferson Parish—3 miles south of Crown Point, La. Hwy. 45
LAKE ST. CATHERINE
Orleans Parish—Fort Pike, U.S. Hwy. 90
LAKE VERRET
Assumption Parish—5 miles south of Pierre Pass, La. Hwy. 70

On The Saline Wildlife Area

HABITAT MANIPULATION

Dan Dennett, Jr.

LANDS THAT ARE owned by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission afford the sportsmen of this state with the greatest opportunity to realize the benefits of an intensive wildlife management program. Such a program can never really reach its potential without complete freedom in habitat manipulation and land-use practice that land ownership makes possible. Careful long-range planning, coupled with an aggressive development program, will make optimum resource utilization possible for future generations of our sportsmen.

An excellent example of an intensive wildlife management program is to be seen on Saline Wildlife Management Area located in lower LaSalle and Catahoula Parishes. Here each type of wildlife habitat is now in the process of being developed in a manner that will provide the greatest possible benefits to hunters and fishermen. Every possible technical consideration is being given to the improvement of this area in order that this large tract of bottomland hardwood timber can be put to the best possible use.

Let's take a look at some of the projects which are now in progress on Saline Wildlife Management Area to see what is involved in this type of program.

Nearing completion at this time is a 450 acre green tree reservoir in the southern end of the area. This construction consists of building a low ring levee around a selected timberland area. Interior drainage within the green tree reservoir will be improved and regulated in order that water levels can be controlled to provide additional waterfowl hunting opportunities. Clearings will be made within the area to be flooded and these openings will be planted with desirable waterfowl foods, which should help to attract additional waterfowl to the area. This waterfowl area should be completed and available to the hunter for the 1968 season.

Although work has not yet started, there are also plans made to install water control structures on several existing bayous and sump areas in order that additional water can be held. It is hoped that this will also help to attract and hold wintering waterfowl in this locality.

Another impressive construction project now in progress is the construction of an air strip on Saline Wildlife Management Area. When completed, this air strip will give Commission aircraft a much needed base of operations on the Saline Wildlife Management Area. Since aircraft are extensively used in waterfowl surveys, fire detection, wildlife law enforcement and related routine observations, the addition of this facility will be a tremendous asset to the wildlife program in this portion of the state. Providing that favorable weather conditions prevail during the summer months ahead, this strip should be in operation by late summer of this year.

Fishing at Saline Wildlife Management Area is excellent and this youth demonstrates the size of the crappie that are taken in the management area's waters. Consisting of 60,000 acres of woodlands and streams, the wildlife management area is the permanent possession of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

Plans have already been completed to improve existing roads in order that sportsmen may gain access to nearly every part of the Saline tract. At this time the major road work effort is devoted to the improvement of 2.4 miles of the Muddy Bayou Road which is a major access route and also leads to a proposed camping area and one of the recently completed boat launching ramps. When completed, this improved road will provide all-weather access to the camping and boat launching site.

In the fall of 1967, a major access road was created by linking the Big Ridge Road, locally known as the 91 Road, to Highway 28, thus providing an additional improved travel route for sportsmen utilizing the area.

Realizing that many of the people who take advantage of the recreational opportunities to be had on the Saline Wildlife Management Area and adjacent territory would travel by boat, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has constructed three excellent boat launching ramps which can be used by the general public free of charge. The first of these ramps was constructed at the end of Hunt Road on the Saline Bayou Camping Area. The second was located in the Muddy Bayou Camping Area and the third was located on Saline Bayou near Larto Lake. All of these launching ramps have been built by contractors to the specifications set forth by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. They are built to withstand many years of adverse weather conditions as well as hard usage by enthusiastic outdoorsmen. These ramps are located so as to make it easy for the boating sportsman to visit any portion of the area waterways he may choose in the shortest practical time.

Specifically designated camping sites have already been established on the Saline Wildlife Management Area. These locations are selected so as to furnish suitable camping grounds to all of those sportsmen desiring to "rough it." While these camping grounds are not yet completed, they will each in time provide a supply of potable water, individual camping sites, picnic tables, and refuse containers, as well as other conveniences. At this time only the camping area at the end of Hunt Road is open to the public. Plans have been made to improve this area in a manner that will provide first rate accommodations for a maximum possible number of campers.

All of the previously mentioned projects will each contribute a great deal to the potential of the Saline Wildlife Management Area, but, we should not overlook the present management program for both deer and turkeys which is currently under way. While this type of program is not nearly as obvious to those who are interested in the area, they will nevertheless contribute many man-hours of outdoor recreation in years to come. The recently completed boundary fence will eliminate the problem of livestock competition and will be a great aid in the turkey and deer management program.

The nucleus deer herd present when the area was purchased by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has responded to the added protection afforded and is progressing well at this time. When the removal of free-ranging livestock is completed, the deer producing potential of Saline Wildlife Management Area will be greatly increased and deer hunters will be allowed to harvest the resulting surplus.

Wild turkeys released on the area for restocking purposes are apparently making excellent progress. Numerous broods of young turkeys have been sighted during the past nesting season and Commission personnel assigned to the area now frequently see turkeys during their normal work day. The public is also giving the Commission excellent cooperation in trying to protect these magnificent game birds so that they will some day become a huntable population. With continued support such as this, turkey hunting should return to the sportsmen using this area in a few short years.

As the deer and turkey populations grow, increased efforts will be made to improve existing habitat as much as possible in order that both deer and turkey populations may be held as high as possible. Habitat manipulations will include clipping pipe line and power line rights-of-way and timber harvest practices which are oriented to sound wildlife management.

In time each phase of development on Saline Wildlife Management Area will contribute something to the wildlife management program. In years to come each acre of land will be put to the best use possible and will deliver the maximum permissible resource utilization to the sportsmen of our state. ✠

The Saline Wildlife Management Area now offers camping facilities where family groups can camp out and fish as well. This photograph shows one group of campers preparing to launch their boat at a free launching ramp on the management area. This is one of three ramps located at Saline.

Mrs. Charles Sebastian and son Tony of Grand Isle greeted spectators at the Louisiana Tourist Development Commission's "Sportsman's Paradise" exhibit during the conference.

Jerry G. Jones, Chairman of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, welcomed Canadians and Americans during opening session.

AACI

REPRESENTATIVES from the United States and Canada were on hand for the 27th annual conference of the American Association for Conservation Information held in New Orleans at the Monteleone Hotel June 2-5. Steve Harmon, Editor of the LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST, was elected president of the natural resources information group for 1968-69. Bar Harbor, Maine is the site of the 1969 conference and Wyoming was chosen for the 1970 meeting.

The conference opened with a welcome from Wild Life and Fisheries Chairman Jerry G. Jones and Harmon. Keynote speakers included Fred G. Ritchie, Director of Conservation and Land Use staff of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; Dan Saults, Chief of Education for the Department of Interior; Ed Kerr, Information Officer, Public Land Law Review Commission, and Henry W. DeBruin, Director of Information and Education for the U. S. Forest Service.

In addition to the general assembly programs, a series of workshops were held with informative sessions on resource magazine production, education programming, audio visuals, display and exhibit preparation, news media hints and outdoor photography. Specialists in these fields in the United States and Canada headed these sessions.

Delegates and guests during the conference were hosted by the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Louisiana Shrimp Association and the Louisiana Oyster Growers and Dealers Association. A "Delicacies from Louisiana Waters" buffet greeted members on arrival. Other activities included an outing at Fontainebleau State Park, walking and bus tours of New Orleans and the annual awards banquet.

Outgoing president of AACI is William C. Dillinger of California. New officers, in addition to Harmon, include Allan Murray of Winnipeg, first vice-president; Bill Sizer of Arizona, second vice-president and Russell McKee of Michigan, secretary-treasurer. ✠

Workshops were well attended and well prepared by specialists in the field conservation information and education.

General sessions in the Queen Anne Room of the Monteleone often prompt discussion from the floor.

The "Cabarets" beat out "Dixie" during the picnic-outing on Lake Pontchartrain.

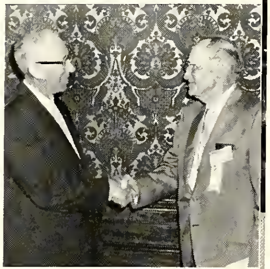
Hank DeBruin, chief of Forest Information and Education of the U. S. Forest Service, talks during a general session.

ACTION!

This exhibit, prepared by the Education Section of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, prompted visitors to the seafood restaurants of New Orleans.

The annual awards banquet was one of the highlights of the four-day conference.

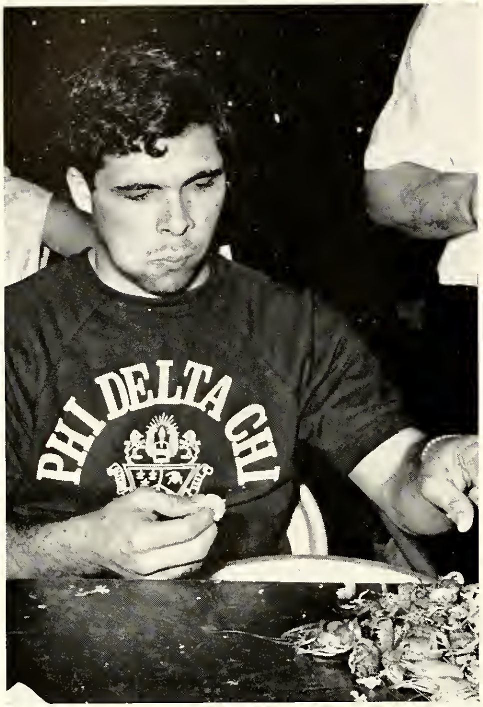
Jambalaya, crawfish pie and file gumbo was prepared by Agents of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. They all came.



Ed McDonald, former Commission Chairman, introduces Fred G. Ritchie of U. S. Agriculture Department, to delegates.

New officers include, left to right, Russell McKee, Secretary-Treasurer; Bill Sizer, Second Vice-President; Steve Harman, President and Allan Murray, First Vice-President.

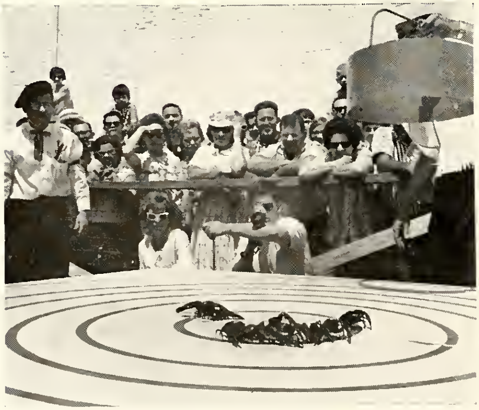
Arthur Jorgensen of Wisconsin receives "best all-around information-education program" award from Dillinger.



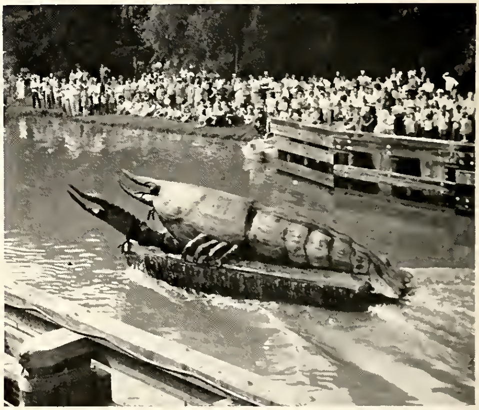
John Palmasano of Kenner, Louisiana, won the title of World Crawfish Eating Champion. In two hours time he consumed 22 pounds of crawfish. He defeated the defending champion, Andrew Thevenet.

Miss Anita Breaux, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Breaux, was named 1968 Crawfish Queen. She is shown with Miss Linda Poche, Texas Cajun Queen, who attended the festivities at Breaux Bridge.

Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival



Crawfish races attracted the attention of many of the visitors to Breaux Bridge during the festival. Carefully selected entries were placed in the center of a series of circles. At the command of the "starter" the container was lifted and the first crawfish to reach the outer circle was declared the winner.



Part of the pageantry of the 1968 Crawfish Festival included boat parades on beautiful Bayou Teche. One float in the parade, shown above, naturally paid tribute to the crawfish. In the background can be seen a portion of the countless thousands of persons who watched the water parade from the banks.

WILDLIFE-O-GRAM

DON'T "POT SHOT" WILDLIFE

Ted O'Neil, mentor of the Fur Division, cautions that "young boys" on their vacations are increasingly taking to camping and boating on the lakes and streams of our State. Many of these boys have with them 22 calibre rifles and as they travel over the water are naturally prone to take a "pot shot" at anything they see that is moving.

Among these moving targets are sometimes alligators, harmless snakes, turtles, fur-bearing animals and the like.

EDITOR ELECTED "PRESIDENT"

We are pleased to announce that our own Steven Harmon was unanimously elected as President of the American Association for Conservation Information. It was the 27th annual gathering of the group and was held in New Orleans and attended by delegates from all the provinces in Canada and the 50 United States. We can't elaborate because of lack of space, however, from several notes and letters we are assured that at the various entertainments held in their honor, no one went hungry for the menus ran the gamut of Louisiana dishes, from boiled crabs, shrimp, crawfish to dirty rice. One lady visitor put it this way. "I've never been to a convention such as this one. There was food galore, served like you see it done in the movies." "One of the things that will remain indelible in my memory is of those entertainers featured at the picnic at Fontainebleau State Park;" she said "It was a revelation to see, in these days of 'mugging and rowdyism' a group of youngsters, so enthusiastic, so fresh, and so clean and natural and spontaneous in their performance." The entertainers, in case you may not know, performed atop a flat-bed truck at the park and were from a group, now growing in popularity, known as the "CABARETS".

EDITOR'S BOOK REVIEW

"Signals of the Animal World", by three world-famous scientists, now off the press of the McGraw-Hill Book Company, is written in a cogent, down-to-earth style which will appeal to a variety of readers. The text is richly illustrated and demonstrates how many of our era's so-called inventions were anticipated, in the course of evolution, by million of years. This book is unique for it shares information with the general public, previously available only to the scientific world.

WHOOPER HATCHES ON JET FLIGHT

Two whooping crane chicks and eight eggs were reported doing well at the federal wildlife center near Laurel, Maryland, recently after a 2600-mile jet flight from Canada's Northwest Territory. While the nine eggs and one chick were transferred from their wild habitat, another chick hatched enroute. The "find" is regarded as most encouraging since there are only 30-odd such birds known to be surviving today.

CAMPBELL IS O.W.A.A. PRESIDENT

Hurley Campbell, well known Baton Rouge outdoor writer and vice-president of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, was elected president of that organization at its 41st annual convention at Callaway Gardens, Georgia, in late June. Campbell is a past president of the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association, outdoor columnist for the Baton Rouge Morning Advocate, and audio-visual director for the Louisiana Department of Education.

MEMBERS OF THE LOUISIANA Shrimp Association, along with others of the shrimp industry attended an annual meeting on Grand Terre Island April 18 for a briefing by staff members of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

Data gathered by the Oyster, Water Bottoms and Seafood Division of the Commission immediately prior to the Grand Terre gathering indicated that the cool spring had deterred growth of shrimp and that the spring season for trawling for shrimp in inside waters should be delayed.

Following considerable discussion, Commission biologists made their recommendations. Under existing law, any delay in the spring season for inside waters may be not later than May 25, extending not later than July 15.

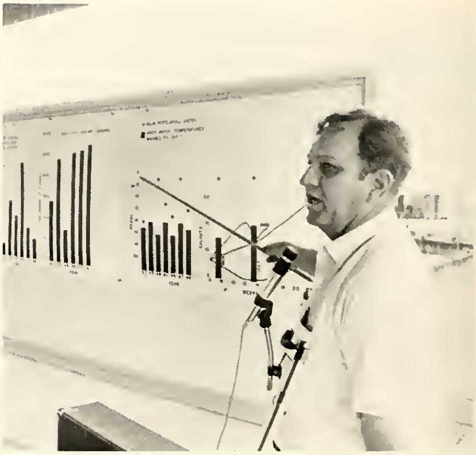
Later, on April 23, at the regular monthly meeting of the Commission which was held at Lake Charles, the season for inside trawling was set for May 20, extending through July 15, providing 57 days of trawling in inside waters. ✠

SHRIMP SEASON BRIEFING HELD AT GRAND TERRE

Members of the Louisiana Shrimp Association and other persons engaged in the shrimp industry gathered at Grand Isle on April 18 for the annual meeting at the Marine Research Laboratory on Grand Terre, just across the channel from Grand Isle.

Representatives of Louisiana's shrimping industry are shown gathered under one of the Marine Research Laboratory buildings for the annual briefing on prospects for the spring season for trawling in inside waters.

Dr. Leslie L. Glasgow, director of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, is shown extending a welcome to those members of the shrimp industry attending the one-day annual meeting at Grand Terre.

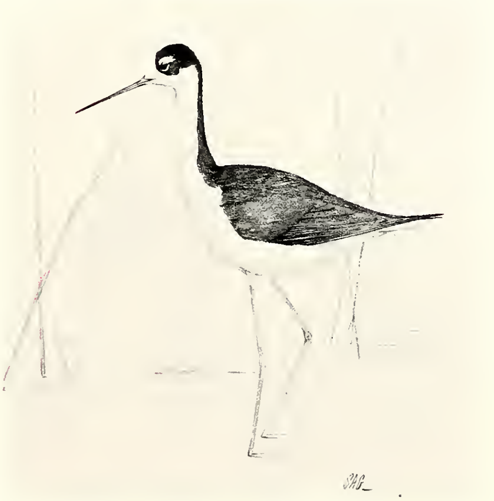


Dr. Ted Ford, chief of the Oyster, Water Bottoms and Seafood Division of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is shown speaking to members of the shrimp industry. He used charts to illustrate the comparative spring catches.

The Bird of the month

BLACK-NECKED STILT

Himantopus mexicanus



Charles R. Shaw

THE BLACK-NECKED STILT is a fairly regular summer resident of our state, and, since it is primarily a western bird, it is somewhat more numerous around Cameron Parish and the southwestern coastal areas.

Anyone once seeing this member of the shorebird group would have to agree that it is very well named indeed, because although the body is relatively small the long legs may measure up to 10 or 12 inches, and it does appear to be walking on stilts. Except for the legs which range in color from pale to bright red, the Black-necked Stilt is strictly decked out in black and white. The back of the neck, the back and the wings are black, as is the long, slim, straight bill. The underparts, the rump and the tail are snowy white. Some observers claim there is a slight upward curve to the bill, although not nearly as conspicuous as seen in the other member of the Family Recurvirostridae, which visits our state, namely the Avocet. In flight the long legs are extended to the rear, reaching way past the short white tail.

Upon alighting the black slender wings may be stretched upward high over the back before being closed to a normal resting position.

Although primarily a coastal bird, the Black-necked Stilt may be found using either brackish or fresh water situations in Louisiana. In the far west its habits do not seem to confine it to coastal situations.

It may not utilize the full length of its long legs, feeding often in water no more than an inch or two in depth. It is a rather busy feeder, working both surface areas and the mud below with aquatic insects as the primary food. Vegetable material consisting mainly of seeds of aquatic or marsh plants makes up less than 2% of the diet. Aquatic bugs and beetles predominate and dragonfly nymphs, caddisflies, mayfly nymphs, flies, mosquito larvae, and even grasshoppers are included. A small percentage of snails, crawfish, etc. complete the diet.

Nesting habits of the Black-necked Stilt are highly variable but in our state the nests usually consist of a relatively simple structure made with a few sticks or twigs and located in the edge of the marsh or near a mud flat, etc. The normal clutch of the yellowish or buffy eggs, irregularly spotted with dark brown or black is four, but may range from three to a maximum of seven. The parents share the duties of incubation. There is one extremely interesting trait recorded for these birds and that is their ability to note rising water which endangers the nest and to quickly gather leaves and other material building the nest up even as much as several inches to keep the eggs from being covered with the oncoming high water.

These birds are quite vociferous, especially if the young seem to be in danger, and the old trick of displaying a supposedly broken wing or leg is played out in the fashion of a true "ham" actor.

The young grow rapidly, including the long legs, although the latter seem to be rather weak at first, causing the birds to rest with the legs extended so that the tarsus is on the ground.

The parents are quite solicitous, staying with the young after the need for parental care is past. In fact the family group may stay intact for some time, ranging considerable distances from the breeding area.

These beautiful shorebirds are an interesting addition to our coastal areas and receive the full protection of the law, to which they are certainly entitled.

Illustration by Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr.

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Photo by Bob Dennie

RIG FISHING IS ONE OF LOUISIANA'S FAVORITE SUMMER ATTRACTIONS AN AFFORDS COUNTLESS HOUR OF RECREATION

A Double Header

Over two thousand offshore oil drilling rigs and platforms fringing the Louisiana coast offer the finest summer salt water fishing in the country. Schools of fish congregate around the rigs that serve as artificial reefs. The red snapper is one of the rig fisherman's favorites. This angler is shown landing two snappers at one time. Fish taken in pairs on tandem rigs are called "double headers" by coastal anglers.